

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1. - 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A basic unit, comprising:

a housing;

recording and playback means provided in said housing for one of recording data to a recording medium and playing data from said recording medium;

accommodation means provided in said housing for accommodating said recording medium;

feeding means provided in said housing for feeding said recording medium between said accommodation means and said recording and playback means; and

guide means provided in said housing for guiding a movement of said feeding means, wherein

said accommodation means includes a rotatable member mounted for rotation around an axis, and a plurality of accommodation sections disposed on an outer periphery of said rotatable member for accommodating said recording medium; and

said housing has an opening in an opposing relationship to at least one of said plurality of accommodation sections for allowing said recording medium to be one of inserted into and taken out from said one of said plurality of accommodation sections.;

a control circuit section connected to said accommodation means, said recording and playback means, and said feeding means for controlling said accommodation means, said recording and playback means, and said feeding means;

at least one expansion unit connected to said basic unit, wherein when said feeding means is positioned within said basic unit said control circuit section controls a position and an operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in said basic unit, and when said feeding means is within said expansion unit said control circuit section controls said position and said operation of said feeding means with reference to a position reference point provided in said expansion unit; and

a flat cable for interconnecting said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit, wherein said flat cable includes a plurality of conductors extending in parallel and joined with an insulating material to form an elongated belt; said flat cable being folded at a substantially central portion in a longitudinal direction of said flat cable; and said flat cable being held at a portion in proximity to said folded portion by a fold-holding member such that an angle of opposite end portions of said flat cable with respect to said folded portion is variable corresponding to a distance between said control circuit section and said feeding means of said basic unit.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The basic unit according to claim 10 9, wherein when a power supply to said basic unit is available after at least one expansion unit is coupled to said basic unit said control circuit section performs an initialization process of detecting and storing said position reference point of said basic unit and said position reference point of said expansion unit.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The basic unit according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit section communicates with a control circuit of said at least one expansion unit coupled to said basic unit to determine a number of said expansion units coupled to said basic unit and stores said determined number prior to said detection of said position reference point of said basic unit and said position reference point of said expansion unit in said initialization process.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The basic unit according to claim 13 9, wherein said fold-holding member is formed by molding a synthetic resin material, and a portion of said fold-holding member pressed by said flat cable when said opposite end portions of said flat cable are opened has a cylindrical shape around an axis parallel to a principal plane

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of said flat cable and perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said flat cable.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The basic unit according to claim 13 9, wherein said fold-holding member is formed from a flexible material.

Claims 16 and 17. (Cancelled)